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VNANDPF DELEGATION TO VISIT NORTH VIET NAM

A delegation of the Viet Nam Alliance of National, Democratic and Peace Forces will soon visit North Viet Nam, according to a communique issued on the August 13, 1969 by the Central Committee of the VNANDPF.

The communique said: "The Central Committee of the Viet Nam Alliance of National, Democratic and Peace Forces has appointed a delegation to visit North Viet Nam in the near future at the invitation of the Central Committee of the Viet Nam Fatherland Front.

The delegation is led by Lawyer TRINH DINH THAO, Chairman of the Central Committee of the Viet Nam Alliance of National, Democratic and Peace Forces and Vice-President of the Advisory Council to the SVNR Provisional Revolutionary Government, and comprises:

Deputy-Heads:

— Superior Bonze THICH DON HAU, former chief representative of the Viet Nam Unified Buddhist Association (Van Hanh Section) Vice-Chairman of the Central Committee of the VNANDPF and member of the Advisory Council to the SVNR Provisional Revolutionary Government;

— Engineer LAM VAN TET, patriotic personality, Vice-Chairman of the Central Committee of the VNANDPF and member of the Advisory Council to the SVNR Provisional Revolutionary Government.

Members:

— Prof. LE VAN GIAP, Chairman of the Saigon — Cho Lon — Gia Dinh Committee of the VNANDPF and member of the Advisory Council to the SVNR Provisional Revolutionary Government;

— Prof. Doctor LE VAN HAO, Chairman of the Hue Committee of the VNANDPF, and Chairman of the People's Revolutionary Committee of Thua Thien — Hue.

— Mme NGUYEN DINH CHI, Vice-Chairman of the Hue Committee of the VNANDPF, member of the Advisory Council to the SVNR Provisional Revolutionary Government and Vice-Chairman of the People's Revolutionary Committee of Thua Thien — Hue.

— Mme LIEN HOA NGO THI PHU, member of the Saigon — Cho Lon — Gia Dinh Committee of the VNANDPF; and

— Mr. DUONG VAN CHIEN, chief of the Bureau of the VNANDPF Central Committee.

On the South Vietnamese People's Fundamental National Rights and Right to Self-Determination (page 5)

Power derived from justice (page 3)

editorial

The South Vietnamese will continue the August Revolution Tradition and Fight to a finish

TWENTY four years ago, together with the entire Vietnamese people, the South Vietnamese rose up in arms on the last days of August 1945. At a stroke, the age-old feudal rule, the almost one hundred-year old French domination and the Japanese fascist lordship were swept away, and national independence, sovereignty, unity and territorial integrity were restored.

But since soon afterwards, these inalienable rights have been challenged and infringed upon. To defend them, our people have had to put up resistances: the first from 1945 to 1954 against the French colonialists and the second since 1954 against the US imperialists.

The anti-colonialist war ended with the dramatic Dien Bien Phu victory and the signing of the Geneva Agreements which granted international recognition to our national

(*Continued on page 2*)

The onward advance of the Saigonese

AFTER the 1969 Spring general offensives and uprisings, the revolutionary movement in Saigon has undergone far-reaching changes.

Now, Saigon can be described as fighting front and a scene of fierce battles. There are active not only guerrilla, self-defence guards but also people from all walks of life militating for better living standards, peace, national independence and democracy.

Under the impact of serious widespread setbacks, the US aggressors muster considerable forces to protect their last strongholds, particularly Saigon, a town well-guarded, outside, by a "hard shell" of 130 regular battalions arrayed into 3 belts and inside, by a multitude of secret agents, field policemen swarming about day and night, searching, terrorizing the people. The US-puppet administration ruthlessly suppresses, arrests and illegally tries patriots and advocates of peace and neutrality.

To make up the deficit in the war budget, they have taken many "broad daylight robbery" measures thereby making bad worse for the messes.

Such disastrous steps have brought home to the Saigonese the true colour of the enemy and the necessity of pushing up their revolutionary struggle.

With a powerful political force, with their versatile, original fighting methods, in their offensive posture, they have staged multifarions actions—teachins, petitions, confrontations, distribution of handbills, armed propaganda, strikes, demonstrations—to the point of defying to enemy persuasion, temptation, threats and terror.

Their drive has drawn in thousands of people, including a number of MPs, officers, high-ranking officials in the Thieu-Ky-Huong puppet administration. The Buddhists' protest against the reactionary, dictatorial Thieu-Ky-Huong administration, demand for the release of Reverend Thich Thien Minh and other young Buddhists illegally arrested and the people's agitation for the fulfilment of their aspirations for peace have gained momentum.

In coordination with the peace movement, young people, pupils and students, the explosive situation of every political onslaught, are taking the lead in the struggle for better school system, against decadent culture and pressganging.

At present, they are courageously fighting against the "summer vacation military drill" and the suppression, slanders and splitting activities by the Thieu-Ky-Huong administration.

Action of many union workers and of hundreds of workshops, big and small, higher pay shorter hours freedom of practising one's trade, improved living conditions, against dismissal and terrorism, break out everywhere and are now the core of the wide-spread anti-US front for national salvation of the Saigon people.

The puppet administration is being rocked to its foundation by the sweeping assaults of the Saigon people. Teach-ins have been held in many cities, particularly after the US and puppet government were forced to talk with the SVNNFL representatives at the Paris conference and the SVNNFL announced its 10-point overall solution on Viet Nam. The general trend is in favour of the Program. Never has the tide of the political struggle risen so high. After nearly 25 years of living under the enemy grip, never have the Saigon people had such a good chance to display their aspirations for peace, freedom, independence and their elation as when they learned of the founding of the Provisional Revolutionary Government of the Republic of South Viet Nam. The letter of the working people in Binh Thoi Guild, Precinct 6, Saigon, to the Revolutionary Government read in part: "Now that there is a Government of ours, we feel as glad as a hungry baby when given suck, we wish the Government good health to lead the people in their effort to bring about an early end of the US, Thieu-Ky-Huong rule and of their own sufferings" (Giai Phong Press Agency — July 2nd 1969).

Together with the political effervescence, a pattern of guerrilla warfare is vigorously evolving in Saigon. The people and the revolutionary armed forces have been mounting continuous attacks on enemy nerve centres, and positions, dissolving "civil guards", liquidating nicke thugs and destroying storadges.

Guerrillas and the town self-defence guards build up their forces while fighting, thus acting on the offensive "from without and from within", securing a foothold in preparation for other onslaughts and uprisings in Saigon and in its neighbourhood.

In the meantime, the city Revolutionary Committee directs the struggle of the people and of the revolutionary armed forces, creating a new situation very unfavourable for the enemy, catching him in a see saw pattern in which he is under siege and fire from all quarters. The people's mastery of their fate is taking shape, in various forms and at different levels. The impetuous uprisings of the revolutionary masses, supported by the guerrillas from neighbouring districts, under the watchword of national independence, democratic liberties, happiness and peace, has coordinated political actions with armed fighting, broadened the solidarity bloc and spearheaded every effort against our arch-enemy: the US imperialists and the Thieu-Ky-Huong trio of traitors. The terrorist activities of the enemy, including the "census of the town population" and the despatch of Thu Duc student-officers to the various Saigon streets for what is described as "psychological warfare activities" (Saigon Radio—June 16-69), cannot in any way check the onward advance with the force of an avalanche of the Saigonese. It is increasingly certain that US aggression will be defeated and the die-hard Thieu-Ky-Huong stooges will fall in their very sanctuary.

PHAN HUU

editorial

The South Vietnamese will continue the August Revolution...

(*Continued from page 1*)

rights. Hardly had the ink on the signatures to the accords dried when the US breaking its undertaking to the Geneva Conference, escalated its abetting and aiding of the French colonialists' invasion into a full-fledged armed intervention, in an attempt to impose its neo-colonialism on South Viet Nam. Then its military aggression was extended into a «special war», followed by a «local war», coupled sometime ago with the war of destruction against North Viet Nam. All these US successive moves have been serious violations of our sacred national rights, aggravated by untold grievous genocidal crimes against the whole of Viet Nam. For their survival and imprescriptible rights, our people have had no other alternative than the recourse to arms.

FROM the August 1945 General Insurrection, through the 1945-1954 resistance to the present anti-US struggle, an unassailable fact has been established: The South Vietnamese as well as their brothers of the North are tough patriots, jealous of their independence and freedom and deeply attached to genuine peace, whereas the US imperialists are cynical aggressors who make no scruple about riding roughshod on our people's rights.

In their legitimate striving after what is after all only their innate prerogatives, it seems that nothing succeeds like success for the South Vietnamese. At the bottom of this are their national traditional dauntlessness, exalted to the highest degree, their grim resolve to fight and win, inherited from the August Revolution experiences gained in the previous combat against foreign invaders and applied with imagination to the current battle. Other factors which account for their achievements include their fervent love for their fatherland, revolutionary spirit geared to a high pitch, unshakeable self-confidence, sound revolutionary line and leadership, singleness of purpose which instils supernatural strength into millions, spirit of unrelenting offensive, multifarious and suitable forms of struggle and widespread international support and sympathy.

FORCED by their humiliating setbacks in both South and North Viet Nam to the conference table with the Democratic Republic of Viet Nam then with the South Viet Nam Front for Liberation and the Provisional Revolutionary Government of the South Viet Nam Republic, the US aggressors however have not renounced their views upon South Viet Nam. All through 30 sessions of the Paris Conférence, their representatives have been ringing the changes on exorbitant demands such as "mutual withdrawal of troops"... The Nixon "pullout of 25,000 men" trick, the Thieu "free elections" scheme are just manœuvres to calm down universal impatience of US obstinacy and fly in the face of a sensible peaceful settlement of the South Viet Nam issue, as suggested by the Front's 10 points. In the meantime, in South Viet Nam, desperate efforts are made to give the puppet army more strength and sting, and to shore up the decaying Saigon administration, sweeps, B52 raids, and chemical warfare are intensified under the plan to "maintain maximum military pressure". The US President's Asian tour had no other purpose than vamp up the Thieu-Ky-Huong triumvirate, induce US satellites to chip in more troops for the "de-Americanization" of the South Viet Nam war and continue their common drive with the US against South East Asia's revolutionary movement. Unmistakably enough, Mr Nixon's deeds clash with his pious protestations of peace, and of respect to the South Vietnamese people's right to self-determination and throw a lurid light on his intention to prosecute his atrocious war on which a new face has been put.

MORE than any other people, the South Vietnamese have peace deeply at heart, but it must be peace without the presence of US soldiery and the rule of the Thieu-Ky-Huong trio of dictators. As long as the Nixon administration persists in its endeavour to block a peaceful solution of the South Viet Nam issue and to reinstall a repatriate unconditionally all US and satellite troops from South Viet Nam, in its exertion to continue in office its Saigon stooges and to deny the South Vietnamese people their fundamental national rights, the latter will keep up the fighting until their beloved land is rid of all US and other aggressors and of the Thieu-Ky-Huong gang of US agents. They will continue the August Revolution tradition and fight to a finish.

Following the example of Fathers and Brothers, young fighters are preparing to fight back US aggressors.

On the South Vietnamese People's Fundamental National Rights and Right to Self-Determination

Students' Struggle

● The Saigon puppet administration on July 25 took by force hundreds of students of various faculties of the Saigon University to the military school on Saigon outskirts for a one-month military training, despite strong protests from them and their parents.

The remaining students keep struggling energetically against the compulsory training from public opinion in Saigon and other cities.

In a talk in Saigon July 24, Father Truong Ba Cam, Professor of the Universities of Da Lat and Hue, pointed out that the action of the Saigon students was "legitimate".

A resolution issued by Hue students at a teach-in on July 18 said that the forcible military training had "seriously upset campus life."

● Students of Can Tho University on July 27 organized another teach-in to support Saigon students' opposition to compulsory military training.

The participants stood up in memory of Thai Van Hien of the Saigon Medical College who had died at Quang Trung camp July 25 as a result of exhausting work.

They also adopted a resolution demanding the Saigon administration to respect students' rights.

● Meanwhile, on July 30, the "Saigon Inter-Collegiate Committee to Defend Students' Rights" issued a statement voicing complete support for Hue students also engaged in a struggle against compulsory military training.

The said committee also sent a deputation to Can Tho city to contact the movement there.

IN the first days of the extended Paris Conference the NFL put forward explicit proposals, with a keen eye to the peaceful settlement of the Viet Nam issue: a halt to US aggression, unconditional and total withdrawal of its troops from South Viet Nam, the South Vietnamese to be left to solve themselves their internal affairs free from foreign interference. These demands constitute also the gist of the Front's May 1969 ten-point overall solution which, dictated by South Viet-Nam's realities, also suggests that the various Vietnamese parties concerned see to the problem of Vietnamese armed forces in South Viet Nam, without the US having anything to do with the matter. The South Vietnamese people will choose their own political regime through free general elections which will return a constitutional assembly. They will endorse a constitution, and appoint a full-fledged coalition government. Pending the popular consultation, a provisional government consisting of representatives of many political forces, of all social segments, political tendencies and of advocates of independence, peace and neutrality now in self-imposed exile abroad will be put in charge of state affairs and preparations for the polling.

The Front's plan is couched in unequivocal terms. It is the most truthful and most comprehensive exponent of the South Vietnamese people's aspirations and vital interests. It is concurrently consistent with the world peoples and the Americans' legitimate wishes. A most logical answer to the South Viet Nam controversy, it makes a clear-cut distinction between the questions at issue between the South Vietnamese and the US and those which concern only the Vietnamese. It spells out the singleness of purpose of the South Vietnamese as regards the basic objectives of their revolution, their insight and soberness in relation to a South Viet Nam settlement and their sense of national concord. It opens an avenue to a political arrangement of the present dispute. It has enlisted universal support and has been adopted by the Provisional Revolutionary Government of the South Viet Nam Republic as its position at the Paris Conference. It has been welcomed everywhere and in the US too as a token of good will of the Front and the PRG and as a valuable contribution and promising initiative of peace by every man of conscience.

FOR the past six months the Nixon administration has been striving to hinder the search for a remedy to the South Viet Nam headache, with such preposterous proposals as mutual pull-out, restoration of the DMZ status etc... Though at once rejected by the South and North Vietnamese Delegations, and most unfavourably viewed by world public opinion, they have been reiterated time and again all through the 28 sessions of the Paris parley, to the detriment of its progress.

Recently the White House has contrived a new gimmick: decision to draw off 25,000 GI's and offer of a "concrete political settlement" through "free elections" by the agency of traitor Nguyen Van Thieu. Do these moves take into consideration the desires of the American, South Vietnamese and world peoples? Do they substantiate Mr Nixon's claim that he and prove his "good faith"? Certainly not. Washington has made no bones that the 25,000 rundown will not at all affect US combat effectiveness in South Viet Nam and is wholly conditional on the puppet troops' capacity of taking a greater burden of the fighting. It is therefore far from being a sheer withdrawal. As for the "concrete political settlement" through "free elections", it is just a bait to lure the South Vietnamese into laying down arms and accepting a ballot they will have to cast under the bayonets of over one million-strong US-puppet soldiery. It is nothing short of a farce and an intolerable challenge to the winning South Vietnamese. It is only a manoeuvre to deny their right to self-determination and in essence to counter the Front's proposal coalition government proposal. It is also a US-puppet illusory attempt to consolidate their rule, prolong US military occupation of South Viet Nam, stave off the collapse of the Saigon regime, all that the US has failed in achieving by means of its atrocious aggression.

THE new Nixon stratagems are naturally coupled with a request for additional South Viet Nam war expenditures, desperate shoring up of the puppet army, vamping up of the Thieu-Ky-Huong triumvirate, stepped-up sweeps and application of "maximum military pressure". They are regarded as an opaque smokescreen for the US administration's unavowable deeds and a "magic wand" to pass the buck. But the results fall far short of its expectations. In the US widespread public clamour for fulfilment of Nixon's "end the war" election pledge, and an early return of the "boys". In the world, popular feeling running high against his war escalation and sticking to absurd demands at the Paris negotiations. The drive which gained added momentum on the occasion of July 20th anniversary for US good faith and adequate response to the Front's 10-point program and the PRG of the South Viet Nam Republic stance dramatically illustrates the estrangement of the US and its henchmen from the public. On the other hand, it vigorously inspires and helps the South Vietnamese people, Liberation Front and PRG, in their valiant and sustained effort to achieve independence, democracy, peace and neutrality and the ultimate reunification of the country.

LIKE other peoples in the world, the South Vietnamese are entitled to independence, sovereignty, unity, territorial integrity and self-determination, inalienable rights which are principles among principles and a basis for a political settlement of the South Viet Nam issue.

There is no genuine independence and freedom without real peace. The threat to the South Vietnamese people's national rights will be only removed when not a single aggressor is left on their soil and when the Thieu-Ky-Huong dictatorial rule is replaced. Consequently, the point is not how many tens of thousands of US servicemen are to be sent home, but the total withdrawal, the unconditional withdrawal of US and satellite troops from South Viet Nam.

The South Vietnamese people's right to self-determination is inseparable from their above-mentioned national rights. They can enjoy no such right under the present Saigon domination and US occupation. In this context, "free elections" while the complete pull-out of US expeditionary corps is taken exception to, will be a mere mockery. The same right of self-determination is in no way incompatible with the South Vietnamese's sacred right to self-defence, which is after all the highest expression of the former at a time when their fundamental national rights are seriously challenged by the US aggressors. There is, in consequence, no question of exchanging their right to self-defence for a vote under duress from a huge army of occupation and a corrupt totalitarian regime.

The only claim the South Vietnamese lay is to their national rights. They will set their faces against any opposition to their legitimate demand. If the Nixon administration sincerely wants to end the war, the only honourable course of action for it to take is to one opened by the Front's 10 points, i.e. bring all the GI's back to the US without laying down any terms, leave the South Vietnamese entirely free to choose their own political system. Failure to do so, and persistence in the present adventurist intensification of the war will only invite more humiliating setbacks and will not prevent the South Vietnamese people from winning their national rights.

THIEN LY

Great PLAF VICTORIES in July 1969

DEVELOPING their great and all-sided victories in the first 6 months of this year, the people and people's liberation armed forces in South Viet Nam in July continued their unremitting and powerful attacks on the enemy in all battlefields.

The PLAF infantry and artillery made hundreds of surprise attacks on enemy headquarters, bases and positions from Quang Tri to Ca Mau. The offensive blows of the PLAF fell accurately on the HQs of the US 1st Infantry Division in Lai Khe (Thu Dau Mot), the US 9th Infantry Division in Dong Tam (My Tho), the US 101st Airborn Division in My Thuy village (Thua Thien), the 1st Brigade of the US 5th armoured Division in Tan Dien (Quang Tri), the 1st puppet division in Mang Ca (Hue city), the US airbase in Bien Hoa, US marines base in Sa Huu (Northern Quang Tri), the puppet navy base in the new port of Saigon, the Dong Da military training centre (Phu Bai), the US information centre on Ba Den Hill (Tay Ninh), the Nha Be oil depot and Mieu Lo supply complex (Binh Dinh), etc.

The PLAF wiped out neatly one puppet battalion in Coc Ba Sai (Quang Tri), wiped out completely the enemy stationed in Phong Dien district town, destroyed a puppet position in Luong Son (Binh Thuan), wiped out over 1,000 enemy troops and destroyed more than 100 military vehicles at Dong Lon (Thu Dau Mot).

The PLAF in Tay Ninh, Bien Hoa, Thu Duc, Long Thanh and Ca Mau laid dozens of ambushes on highways 13, 14, and 19 and on the rivers of Long Tau, Vam Co Dong and Cua Lon. Within the first 20 days of July, they destroyed over 200 military vehicles, sank or set ablaze 30 warships and combat launches of the enemy.

Regional forces, guerillas, home-guards and the population in the cities and suburban areas also inflicted on the enemy many stunning blows, breaking the enemy's support operations for their "accelerated pacification" campaign and wiped out whole groups of officers, police, spies and other agents right in the centre of Saigon, Hue, Da Nang, Can Tho, Qui Nhon... Within the first 20 days of July the regional forces and guerillas in Thua Thien - Hue while mounting stormy attacks on the enemy on A Bia hill, assaulted them in the plain and the suburban areas of Hue city, wiping out more than 2,500 GIs and puppet soldiers.

From July 6 to July 17, the regional forces and guerillas in the Southern part of Central Viet Nam annihilated over 1,050 enemy troops, and destroyed 30 "strategic hamlets". In July, the people and their armed forces in the High Plateaux put out of action nearly 1,200 enemy troops, destroyed 105 military vehicles, and shot down 11 aircraft.

On the night of July 9, the regional forces in An Giang made a surprise attack on the enemy in Tan An concentration centre, putting out of action more than 400 "civil guards" and "civil defence" troops. The home-guards in Saigon annihilated 157 officers and non-coms of the US Navy at Paloma Hotel; the home-guards of Hue wiped out 5 CIA officers in Huong Tra; those in Da Nang wiped out 13 US and Filipino field officers at the intersection of Chu Van An and Phan Chu Trinh streets. The home-guards in Can Tho city knocked out 78 US and puppet officers gathering at a casino theatre; the home-guards of Qui Nhon punished 120 GIs, mostly officers, in the American quarter in the western part of the city.

The aircraft hunting, warship hunting and armoured-car hunting teams of the PLAF and guerillas were also very active, on all enemy life lines. The aircraft hunting teams in Ban Tri Giet and Suoi Ba Chiem areas (Tay Ninh) recorded outstanding exploits by shooting down 16 enemy aircraft from July 7 to July 21. The armoured car hunting teams in Ben Cat area (Thu Dau Mot) within the first 20 days of July destroyed 32 tanks and armoured cars on Highways 2 and 26. The warship-hunting teams in Thu Duc-Long Thanh, Bien Hoa and Tay Ninh within the first half of July sank or set ablaze 23 warships and combat launches of the enemy.

The victories in July proved that the people and their armed forces in South Viet Nam continue to develop the combined strength of the people's war, fighting unremittingly in all battlefields, driving the enemy into the defensive in all parts of South Viet Nam, and leaving them more exposed to surprise attacks.

A "Military Exploit Order" First Class and the "Matchless Valour" title have been conferred posthumously by the Command of the South Viet Nam PLAF and the South Viet Nam Liberation Women's Union on 18-year-old girl guerilla and college student Mai Thi Non.

She laid down her life during a mine attack on the police headquarters in the Ben Luc military sub-sector (Northern Long An), on June 4, 1969.

The mine exploded when policemen were trying to apprehend her. Eleven of them including a lieutenant were killed.

Mai Thi Non had one leg and both arms broken. To her fuming interrogators, she said, "To wipe out the enemy is the duty of all patriots, which I'm proud to have accomplished."

At their insistence, she retorted, "Don't ask me any more questions. I've only one desire — kill all the traitors!"

Feat of arms on highway 14

THESE last few days, reports of victories won by the PLAF in northwestern Kontum were a source of joy and encouragement for the Liberation troops of Gia Lai. In Unit X, both cadres and men, including secretaries, nurses and cooks, actively prepared for an ambush on enemy communication lines, in support of friendly units.

The target was a stretch of Highway 14 north of Pleiku town, a little over 20 kilometres long.

Unit X. of the PLAF wove its way through the enemy thick defences and took up position near the roadside without the enemy knowing anything about it.

At 6.30 a.m. on June 11, twelve enemy tanks and armoured cars came to occupy the stretch of road just facing the PLAF camouflaged positions. Recon planes, spotter planes, and helicopters skimmed the road. Engineers inched their way forward with mine-detectors.

From the command post PLAF Commander T. closely followed enemy movements while listening on the phone to reports by look-outs. The PLAF fighters, their weapons loaded, calmly waited for the order to attack.

At 7, groups of enemy military vehicles drove past at full speed. None of the enemy's movements escaped the watchful eyes of the PLAF fighters.

At 9.15 two convoys of 14 vehicles each, escorted by aircraft and tanks, turned up. From the PLAF command post, the order came to let them pass. "We have bigger game to catch," said Commander T. to group Commanders Nguyen Dinh and Nguyen Phuong.

At 11.25, a long convoy of 80-odd vehicles came from the direction of Pleiku. Hardly had they entered the trap when the ambushing PLAF opened a violent raking fire, followed by assault groups which cut the convoy into several sections. Within a matter of minutes, 5 tanks and 9 armoured cars and trucks were shot up, five of them by Tê, a 19-year-old soldier in assault group No 1, with five bazooka shells. Deafened by the explosions, he was ordered to withdraw from the front line, but before doing so rushed forward and blasted a GMC truck with his last shell. His friends Ly and Le used grenades and satchel charges to destroy several more vehicles. Panic-stricken, a group of GIs clambered out of their tanks and took to their heels. Others crawled under their trucks or into roadside bushes and tried to resist, but were quickly liquidated.

From the Iatove bridge, three M. 113 armoured cars moved up to the rescue of the vehicles in the lead, but were almost immediately knocked out. Our mortars, satchel charges, grenades and automatic weapons were heard all over the battlefield.

Another PLAF assault group cut the enemy's rearguard to pieces. Within minutes, Comrade Mao's team destroyed the enemy "bolt" at Ta Bot bridge, made away with a platoon of American engineers and held other units at bay. Meanwhile Lung, Sam, Hai and Phong knocked out four tanks with four bazooka shells. Three more vehicles were destroyed with satchel charges.

Set ablaze, enemy vehicles ruched forward frantically in a vain effort to escape, but merely succeeded in knocking each other onto the roadside. One after another, they were blown up by our fighters. Helicopters flew low and tried to attack our men with 20-mm. cannon fire: one was shot down barely 50 metres from the road. The crew of two were carbonized. The other helicopters hastily fled.

Everything was over in 40 minutes. The enemy convoy had been almost totally destroyed. Nearly 80 vehicles, among them 34 tanks and armoured cars, had been blown up, more than 200 American troops put out of action, among them a whole platoon of engineers. One helicopter had been brought down and much war matériel destroyed. The road was strewn with charred vehicle carcasses and dead bodies. Some GIs were killed right in the cabins of their trucks, others while trying to escape. Less than ten vehicles managed to escape to Pleiku.

The local people belonging to various national minorities, were elated by this victory won by the PLAF, many of whose members were their own people.

Power derived from justice

TO everyone's knowledge, the seizure of power by the people is a basic, principled theoretical point in the South Vietnamese revolution.

Since as early as 1961-1962, with its Self-Management Committees set up in ever larger liberated areas, the NFL had in fact been an executive body fulfilling the functions of a State power.

As pointed out by President Nguyen Huu Tho in his Political Report to the South Viet Nam Congress of People's Representatives:

"Wide areas from the Southern bank of the Ben Hai River to Ca Mau Point have been liberated and turned into solid strongholds for our people and armed forces to mount attacks on the enemy from all quarters. There, revolutionary power truly representative of the legitimate interests and aspirations of the people has been set up and has been seeing to the constant development of production, culture, education, news dissemination and health. The foundations of an independent, free and genuinely democratic regime have been laid."

To meet the requirements of the revolution and the needs of the people at the new stage, that of generalized offensives and simultaneous uprisings, the Congress appointed the Provisional Revolutionary Government of the Republic of South Viet Nam. The said Government is the centralized executive organ, responsible for the mobilization and direction of the South Vietnamese people and their armed forces to bring their resistance war to complete victory. The PRG was imperatively called for by the objective developments of the situation and the trend of the revolution in South Viet Nam. Its establishment forcefully asserts the right to self-determination and the unshakable will for independence and freedom of the South Vietnamese people.

The building and perfecting of the revolutionary power apparatus constitute a process of arduous and highly successful struggle. Indeed, the generalized offensives and uprisings starting from early 1968 gave a strong fillip to the popular seizure of power and its complete shaping.

Braving enemy bombs and shells the people elected People's Revolutionary Committees at all levels. In many areas guerilla fighters repelled enemy raids intended to hinder the elections. For the population in the liberated zone, election days were real gauds, unlike what happened in the US-occupied areas where townsfolk were driven to the polling booths at gun-point.

The zeal with which our people went to the polls in the plains as in the hill regions, in arms-making worshops, military hospitals and even in underground shelters, amply demonstrated the freedom of our elections. It testified to their mass and democratic character and the people's mastery of their country.

Their returns have conferred an undeniable legal character on the organs of power. Though newly born, the latter possess effective authority and a high credit. The Provisional Revolutionary Government, the symbol of this authority, derives its power from the justice of South Vietnamese people's cause.

The authority of the PRG is not impaired, as Nixon remarked obtusely, by the absence of a capital for foreign ambassadors to present their credentials in. For it springs from the fact that its organs of power at all echelons have been elected by the people in a democratic fashion and these, once established, have liquidated the puppet administration and have been looking after the welfare of the revolution and the people. Now a full-fledged administrative machine has been set up throughout South Viet Nam, operating efficiently in all fields, which has made possible the substantial all-round growth of many areas. In all consciousness and with enthusiasm, the people abide by the laws enacted by the revolutionary power and all its policies to push up production and the fighting, guaranteeing democratic rights and raising the living standard. The progress achieved by each branch of activity contributes to the steady reinforcement of the revolutionary power and to the enhancing of its authority and prestige.

SELDOM has the history of diplomacy recorded such an occurrence as the warm reception and support extended by over twenty governments, a hundred international, regional and national organizations to a new revolutionary government, which in this case, is the PRG of the South Viet Nam Republic.

This constituted a tremendous success for the South Vietnamese people's struggle for national salvation. To recognize the PRG was to regard it as the South Vietnamese's authentic, legal representative wielding actual power at home and enjoying credit abroad. It was practical and very valuable support and contribution to our resistance to US aggression, and at the same a telling blow at the puppet administration which represents nobody and now finds itself on the verge of collapse.

Alarmed at the emergence of the PRG, Washington has been making every effort to conceal its perplexity and to lessen the impact of this far-reaching event. Its initial reaction was to pretend indifference and when Nixon himself had to make a statement on June 19, he could but utter a few futile comments in an attempt to minimize the political significance of the PRG. On the contrary, the American press widely commented on its birth and carried details on its composition and broad sections of the people welcomed it while at the Paris Conference, Cabot Lodge and the Saigon chief delegate Pham Dang Lam had to witness what Western news agencies called the "coronation" of Madam Nguyen Thi Binh, the PRG Minister for foreign affairs.

The infuriated Thieu Ky Huong clique dare not refer directly to the Provisional Revolutionary Government. They who had regarded the National Front for Liberation as a shadow and in point of fact banished the words peace, neutrality and front from the people's language, had to recognize the NFL as a reality and to sit at the conference table with representatives of the Front and now of the PRG. What does all that show if not a sign of the weakness and losing position of the Saigon stooges?

Commenting on the coming into existence of the PRG of the Republic of South Viet Nam, the French paper *Figaro* wrote: "One had been expecting the formation of such a government for quite a time. The Front exploded the situation, and has unequivocally raised the problem of overthrowing the Thieu administration. The Government's emergence disposed of all the US and Saigon arguments and integrated the Front into the political life of South Viet Nam."

TRUONG HA

Holding the rifle firmly to defend Revolutionary Power!

VIET KIEU TAI PHAP TRIET DE UNG HO
CHANH PHU CACH MANG LAM THOI
CONG HOA MIEN NAM VIET NAM
VIET KIEU KIEN QUYET
DAU TRANH CHONG DE QUOC MY
VA TAY SAI PHAN DOT HET QUAN DOI
DE KIEU MIEN NAM VIET NAM KHONG DIEU KIEN

Vietnamese Nationals in France hail the PRG of the SVNR, support the Front's ten points and urge unconditional withdrawal from SVN of US and satellite troops.

"The formation of the PRG of South Viet Nam is an event of considerable importance. This government is the expression of national unity and of the legal expectations of the South Vietnamese people"

(Resolution on Viet Nam by the World Assembly for Peace)

Water

(Continued from preceding issue)

WE were all wet up to our necks. Two hours' wading, without a halt. Indeed, as my young friend the liaison agent had said, there was not a dry place anywhere to rest. With relief we heard the station-chief's voice, "There's the village!"

We waited with our packs on our heads while he went into the village to establish contact. I had no idea how the village would look like in dry season, but right now it was a floating village. It was my first visit to such a village. Formerly I had known but underground ones, where the people lived in galleries and tunnels.

Almost all the houses had tin roofs. They were scattered about in a "tram" wood, and their floors were only a few inches above the water level. Water was everywhere around, and yet suddenly I heard a cock-crow, which was as sweet to my ears as the sound of a flute.

The station-chief was soon back. We were belleted in separate houses. The one I was sent to was located on the edge of the wood. The house people-a 60-year old woman and a 20-year-old girl-were sitting on the floor, a plank-bed resting on some sort of support, with a well-polished surface. While most houses in the village were merrery made up of a roof, with no walls at all, this one had partitions of blue plastic sheets, probably because there was a young girl among the dwellers.

I was given a warm welcome. The girl nodded a greeting, while the old woman said in a slow and distinct voice, "Come up and have some rest, son. I am truly glad you haven't been hurt. You seem to bear a charmed life, don't. Do come up, doesn't matter if the floor gets wet. The girl will wipe it."

Now I saw that the woman was blind. There was a blank inhereyes as in blind people's, but her voice was unmistakably cordial. She was really happy we had escaped death.

While I recounted to her the air raid in some detail, the girl put things in order and cleared a place for me to rest. She was a nice-looking girl, with a tanned complexion and a slender figure.

Rings formed on the water some distance from the house and a young man turned up, wading with water up to his breast. On seeing him, the girl's face beamed with a smile and her eyes opened wide. Coming up, the young man put a little canvas bag he was carrying on his head on the floor, and astride a log jutting out from underneath. His clothes were of course all wet, but he was carefully dressed. I noticed that even the cuffs of his shirt were buttoned. He looked at me inquiringly, but asked no question.

The old woman cocked her ears for a few seconds, but immediately resumed her conversation. The young man was definitely a familiar of the house. He started talking with the girl, she sitting on the floor, he on the log under the water level in the most natural way.

The station-chief was coming back. Perhaps he had finished quartering my companions. His limp was no longer visible as he waded in the water. The girl blushed when she saw him and, picking up a knife, set about paring her nails. This childlike timidity even enhanced her charm.

The station-chief showed some surprise when he caught sight of the young man. "Is that you, Lam?" he asked.

Instead of answering, the young man asked back, "Where are you going, Elder Brother?" Then he added, "The day after to-morrow is Father's death anniversary. Mother says you should come home for the occasion."

"Heaven, how could I?" the station-chief exclaimed. "Don't you know they raided the station this very morning?"

"Sure I know. But Mother asked me to tell you, and I did as I was told."

"Well, what about you? Will you be home?"

"Heaven, how could I? Don't you know the supplies are on their way to the front? I am on an escort mission."

"All right," concluded the station-chief with a ringing laugh, "We'll both be scolded by Mother, but never mind."

"So, you are brothers?" I said.

"Yes, he is the youngest of the family. A village guerilla. All right, have a good rest. Someone will come and fetch you in the afternoon. Goodbye everybody!"

He hastily left, heading back for the station in the midst of the wild expanse.

Some distance away was another hut, half hidden behind a screen of creepers. It was also covered with a tin roof and the floor was rested on various props: a support for plank-bed, logs, of "tram" wood, even a husking mill... But the water had almost reached its level, and a hen-coop hung from a bamboo branch had gone aslant without anybody caring to set it right. Some time before, I had seen a man wading up to it with a heavy load on his head. He had put it on the floor and left, only to come back some time later with another case, also wrapped in plastic sheets.

I was lulled to sleep by the water splashing against the "tram" trees. When I woke up, and started thinking about the hard trip I was to begin that night, the old woman said, «Are you up, Chin? I heard you move. Perhaps you would like to have tea with Bay, who lives in the house yonder. He came a little while ago to ask you over but you were still asleep.»

I sat up and looked at the house with the hen-coop. The man whom I had seen carrying heavy cases in the morning was sitting on the floor. He waved to me and shouted, «Come over and have some hot tea.»

I ploughed my way over. Bay had his tea-tray ready before him, and when I came up, he started pouring boiling water into the tea pot.

There was not much room on the floor, most space being taken up by a large mass covered with plastic sheets.

Bay sat at the edge with his feet dangling in the water, and his black shorts were all wet.

«Why don't you dry yourself and change?» I asked.

«I have to keep an eye on the water level and raise the floor whenever neccssary. The flood has been rising steadily.»

In fact, turning back I saw the young girl busy cutting young "tram" trees, dragging them home and using them to lift the floor of her house. Her hair was neatly tied into a knot at the back of her neck, to avoid its getting wet. The sunset was tinging the water with red hues. A rumble came from the distance: a bombing raid was under way.

«This morning,» I said to Bay, «I saw you carrying heavy cases to this house but I didn't think you were its owner.» Almost at the same time I recognised the cases under bulging sheets of plastic. Behind the little mound formed by the containers. I noticed the tip of a boat, moored to the edge of the floor.

«Yes,» Bay said, «I was taking some cases home. There was not enough storage space at the neighbours».

«What do they contain?» I asked.

Bay hesitated. Finally he said, «Military goods.»...

He added after a while: "Our village is just one of many transit stations. We bring the goods here, and people from another village will come and fetch them." Again a pause, then he said, "We're probably going to give the Yanks hell. The usual winter-spring campaign."

"How do you know?" I asked.

"Not hard to guess. The cases are so heavy: they must contain either guns or ammunition".

I turned to another subject: "I don't see the children. Where are they?"

The man laughed. He folded his legs and slapped his wet thigh:

"We've got only one, and he has joined the revolution. When he was ten, he asked to enlist in the liberation army. I told him: "You can't shoot, can't cook, can't mend your clothes; they won't take you." So he remained home for two more years and again sought to join up. Even his mother couldn't take him out of it. However, the army wouldn't enrol him, because he was too young. You know what he did? He told me reproachfully: "You should let me try years ago: then I wouldn't have been rejected." A curious kind of logic indeed. The boy was so upset his mother persuaded me to request the local revolutionary authorities to give him some kind of para-military assignment. And so he is now a liaison agent."

He added proudly: "He is guite a boy. Barely a year later, he shot down a helicopter."

"Fancy that!" I exclaimed. "Where is he now? What's his name?"

"We just call him Ut at home. But at the place where he works, R-45, he goes by the name of Tang which is on his birth certificate."

I was dumbfounded. "Good heavens!" I exclaimed, "Ut Tang took me here. So, you're his father!"

I grabbed his shoulders, shouting with joy. Bay looked somewhat bewildered by my excitement. Tang's chin was chaped just like his father's. Bay kept staring at me. Perhaps he was wondering why so many cadres of the Resistance should have run across a member of his family. As for me, I was thinking: Long An is indeed a big family, whose every member, from a blind old grandma to a young boy, is a resolute fighter against American aggression. As for Bay, he is indeed a happy father.

An immense burnished expanse of water, with a few green streaks. There seemed to be little worth mentioning, yet everything was there. It was those villages — underground ones I had known, and floating ones I was going through — which made up the dauntless land of Viet Nam. Water dind't just mean flood and difficulties, it also meant stiff resolve and unassailable ramparts.

DINH QUANG NHA
December 1968

US CRIMES IN THE LAST 15 YEARS

The "Commission for Denunciation of the US imperialists and their agents' war-crimes against the South Viet Nam people" has issued recently a special communique exposing US-puppet atrocities in South Viet Nam in the last 15 years. The communique emphasizes:

After Nixon's coming to power, the US war of aggression in South Viet Nam, the greatest and most inhuman ever known in the history of mankind, has been stepped up in every aspect.

According to US Senator Hatfield on June 14th, 69, the US has spent 382 billions dollars on the Viet Nam war.

On March 24th, 1969, US Senator Findley declared at the House of Representatives that every square mile of Viet Nam had had to sustain 25 tons of US explosive (or 5,150,000 tons altogether for the whole of Viet Nam). Up to October 68, the tonnage of US bombs dropped over Viet Nam by far exceeded the amount of US bombs used in World War II. Many up-to-date weapons and war means used in the Viet Nam war were unknown in many previous wars: B52 strategic bombers, 10,000 and 15,000 lb bombs, toxic gaz of all kinds, self-propelled heavy guns etc...

For the last 15 years, the US imperialists and the Saigon administration have been piling up monstruous crimes against the South Viet Nam people.

From Diem-Nhu to Thieu-Ky-Huong, the "killing of the Communists"—in essence the killing of the patriots-has been their "state policy", the basis of their rule of traitors to the people.

The US-puppet methods have put the medieval tortures to shame. They use red-hot pincers to cut off the limbs, pull out fingernails, toenails, tear the flesh off the thighs and the bredsts of arrested South Viet Nam women. They shrink from no savage methods to make them sterile.

In dark, narrow prison cells, the prisoners have only enough room to stand, and to relieve themselves on the spot. They have not enough to eat and drink and are not attended to when taken ill. Infants and newborn babes undergo the same inhuman treatment. In South Viet Nam, due to the US-puppet barbarous prison system, thousands of people are either missing or killed or incapacitated.

The Thieu-Ky-Huong clique has resorted to other ways of killing people: they once ordered their troops to encircle all the 800 prisoners of Cam-o, Poulo Condor and to open fire, killing and wounding many of them.

As a matter of fact, in South Viet Nam, prisons and concentration camps are uncountable but one thing is clear: they are all hells on earth where South Viet Nam patriots are rotting.

After their visit to a number of prisons, "MP"s of the Saigon puppet "National Assembly" themselves voiced their protest against the prison system as "illegal and immoral".

The so-called "prosperity zones," "new life hamlets," "refugee centres" are in fact concentration camps. The US-puppet administration has impounded over 4,000,000 South Viet Nam people in these camps where they are prey to diseases, hunger and privations. Even in such a wretched condition, they enjoy no peace. The US-puppet troops often drop bombs on, and slam shells into, these camp and kill their inmates. Only one piece of evidence: on February 22nd 1969, bombs and shells were poured into the Kong H' Ring camp, killing 350 Se Dang Nationals, 1,200 people at Ba Lang An, after being penned up in the Van Thanh camp (Quang Ngai), were bundled into the sea in March 1969.

The US troops have used banned weapons for mass-killing and destruction: In 1966, the USAF alone dropped 55,000 tons of napalm over South Viet Nam: (In the war of aggression against Korea, the total tonnage used was 32, 215 tons).

Thousands of tons of toxic chemicals have been sprayed all over South Viet Nam. In such districts as Cam Lo and Gio Linh (Quang Tri), toxic gaz was dumped over an area of 540 square km, i.e. 67% of the surface of the two districts.

The number of people poisoned and burnt by napalm amounted to tens of thousands and millions of hectares of crops were either ruined or burnt.

Everywhere, from the town to the countryside, from thickly-populated area to the far-away place, has been subjected to US bombing and shelling. In February 68, US planes and heavy guns strafed and bombarded over 130 towns, provincial towns, district towns in South Viet Nam. Many streets in many towns, provincial towns including Saigon were either levelled to the ground or damaged from 60% to 80%. 85% of the ancient city of Hue were reduced to rubble. In 42 provincial towns, district towns in the Mekong delta, over 100,000 houses were destroyed, 10,000 people were wounded, and more than 300,000 homeless.

Particularly, after Nixon's installation, the Viet Nam war budget has been increased by 3 billion dollars and the monthly tonnage of bombs dropped over Viet Nam has exceeded by 15,000 tons that of the late months of 68.

Large-scale terrorist raids, arrests, massacres are being stepped up. An atmosphere of terror is reigning in enemy-occupied towns and areas.

The above said crimes have laid bare the hypocrisy of the "peace will" of the Nixon administration. They can't but fan the flames of hatred of the South Viet Nam people for US imperialism and stiffen their determination to completely defeat the US war of aggression.

A WARMONGERING TRIP WHICH FLOPS

US President Nixon has just ended his Asian trip. The American propaganda machine ballyhooed it as an opportunity for the US President to "ask for Asian leaders' advice" on the building of the future of their continent, and cleverly gave the impression that Washington really meant that "peace and progress in Asia should be wrought and safeguarded primarily by Asian hands".

Progressive world opinion, however, viewed Mr Nixon's tour with a stopover in Saigon as a master's visit to his valets, an aggressor's to traitors. It entirely served the interests of the US ruling circles and their foreign agents, and had nothing to do with peace and progress.

Here in South Viet Nam the US is gliding deeper into a more passive defensive strategy. Abrams's "clear and hold" plan has virtually come to grief and the US casualty toll keeps growing. The squandering of over 400 billion dollars and the use of a wide range of destructive and sophisticated tactics and of all its modern weapons short of the A and H bombs, have not staved off successive US setbacks. On the other hand, Americans gulled by their President for the last 6 months are strongly protesting over the return of their husbands and boys from South Viet Nam. The utterly weak and rotten puppet administration is nodding to its ruin, so much so that the American ambassador, Bunker, who went to see Nixon on July 28 in Bangkok predicted that the cabinet crisis in Saigon would end in August at the soonest.

US humiliating setbacks sustained in Viet Nam have filled its satellites throught Asia with deep anxiety and the fear of being let down.

Southeast Asia remains a powder keg for US imperialism. The revolutionary tide has been mounting in Thailand, in the Philippines, in Laos... The aggressive SEATO bloc is shaky and impotent as ever. US satellites are reluctant to supply it with cannon-fodder. All this constitutes as many omens of the inevitable collapse of US aggression, occupation and domination in this part of the world.

It is this gloomy situation which prompted the US President, though due to in ears internal problems, to make his Southeast Asian trip and sneak into Saigon for a few hours. His intention was to consolidate the SEATO and the American bases in Thailand and the Philippines, thereby thwarting the revolutionary movement in the area, to save sagging US prestige, and more particularly to solicit the satellite countries having fighting forces in South Viet Nam, and press them fore more manpower. He wanted to be in a position to say that he too had been to South Viet Nam and to farbish the "image" of Thieu-Ky-Huong.

From Nixon's very first press conference in Guam before his arrival in the Philippines, it was clear to everyone that what dictated his Asian tour was American interests in South Viet Nam at present as the first step in keeping the so-called "United States commitments in Asia", Washington has been consistently holding on to the Thieu-Ky-Huong administration as an instrument for neo-colonialist domination over South Viet Nam. It was what Nixon's predecessor did and where he lamentably failed. In this connection, Dean Rush, a former US Secretary of State, in quoted the AP (July 27) as repeating that "Nixon has said that we shall keep our commitments in Asia and that we shall continue to be an Asian power". Abrams, the C-in-C of the American expeditionary force in South Viet Nam told reporters covering Nixon's Asian trip in Bangkok, July 29, that thus far the US had been maintaining maximum pressure on the battlefield. As for the US President himself, answering journalists' questions before taking off for New Delhi, he declared that his jaunt to Saigon was the most unequivocal pointer that the US would never let down South Viet Nam.

When an extensive war of unprecedented cruelty cannot realize US aggressive designs in South Viet Nam, what result could possibly achieve Nixon's journey? Nixon wanted to reinvigorate traitor Thieu in Washington's service, but what machiavellian move would conceivably revive their rotten political corpses? Nixon wanted to salvage US prestige in Asia, but his tour only exacerbated the strong feeling of the peoples in this continent and the American people themselves against his administration. Nixon, the hawk who had donned the plumage of a dove to win his race to the White House, revealed in the course of his Asian trip, his true feathers. It was clearly a warmongering tour and an unsuccessful one at that.

HA DUY PHUOC

JUSTICE IS BOUND TO TRIUMPH

THE 15th International Conference Against A and H Bombs held in Japan has just come to a successful end. A decision has been reached on the demand for a total ban of atomic, chemical, bacteriological and other weapons of mass destruction. On the Vietnamese problem the conference strongly condemned the aggressive war waged by the United States, strongly insisted that the latter and its satellites totally and unconditionally withdraw their troops from the South of our country, let the South Vietnamese people settle themselves their own affairs without foreign interference, and voiced support for their resistance to American aggression until complete victory.

In their stubborn attempt to thwart the cause of peace and justice of the world peoples, US imperialism and its agents sought ways and means to wreck the said conference, to hinder its work and minimize its impact. It was in this context that the Sato government, in defiance of the Japanese people's protest and world opinion, persistingly refused entry visas to delegates from South and North Viet Nam.

The attitude of the Sato government further exposed its reactionary nature. How can it conceal its collusion with American imperialism in the dirty war of aggression in South Viet Nam? Its co-operation with the US in the production and storing of chemical weapons in Japan—which is strongly condemned by men of con science in all continents, is in itself a crime heinous enough against the South Vietnamese, the Japanese and world peoples.

Though banned from the Conference, the Chief delegate of the Republic of South Viet Nam is recorded as told of the militant solidarity between the fraternal peoples of Japan and the whole world. He reported the dastardly crimes of the American aggressors and their henchmen as well as the gruelling struggle of his countrymen, full of sufferings and sacrifices but also of splendid successes.

The 15th International Conference Against A and H Bombs discharged its responsibilities with great dedication. The conclusions arrived at there were filled with regard for the truth, justice and human ethics and at the same time forecast the certain victory of the fight of the world peoples against reactionary bellicose and aggressive forces led by US imperialism, which are against peace and social progress and for oppression and exploitation.

The South Vietnamese people warmly acclaim the fine results of the Conference and express sincere gratitude for its vigorous backing to their resistance against US aggression, for national salvation.

THE UAR WILL WIN!

THE Southvietnamese people and their armed forces warmly congratulate the recent glorious exploits achieved by the UAR people. On the morning of July 27, the UAR air forces attacked many targets of the Israeli aggressors in Sinai. Israeli troops suffered heavy casualties in men and war means and were obliged in retreat in disorder, according to Middle East sources.

The same sources reported that the UAR armed and air forces, in the last week of July, shot down 32 enemy aircraft. By this magnificient exploit, they punished the aggressive acts and monstrous crimes committed by the bellicose Israelis in the west of the Suez canal civilian zone.

"The UAR forces' attacks on Israeli positions put an end to the myth that Israeli air forces are the most powerful and enjoy unequal superiority in the Middle East", Cairo radio said on July 27.

The new July exploit proves that the UAR armed forces and UAR people hold the initiative in their hands and at the same time are fully capable of breaking all piratical Israeli attacks backed by British and American imperialists.

Thus, the just UAR people's struggle against the Israeli aggressors has entered a new stage. The clearest proof is the recent Cairo meeting where Arab Alliance Socialist Party leaders, on behalf of the UAR people showed the unshakable resolve to push forward their struggle to safeguard the UAR's and other Arab countries' sovereignty and territorial integrity.

These recent years, on their American bosses' orders, the Israeli aggressors have perpetrated many crimes against the UAR and other Arab peoples. They have brutally driven thousands of Palestinians of Arab origin out of their occupied zones.

In spite of the Arab peoples' opposition, the Israeli aggressors haven't renounced their bloody acts and have continued to concentrate Arab people massively in the concentration camps, to massacre and to terrorize thousands of Arab patriots.

Coming under Arab counter-attacks this time, the Israeli troops have sunk into passivity. This is the beginning of their unavoidable defeat if they obdurately maintain their aggressive schemes against Arab countries.

In congratulating the UAR armed forces and people's recent victories, the Southvietnamese people once more reaffirm their resolute support to the UAR and other Arab people's revolutionary cause of struggle against the US imperialists and their flunkeys for the defence of independence and freedom.

Photo above:

The PRG of the SVNR's representative in Manchester with sympathizer Jane Seifert proudly draped in the PRG of the SVNR's colours.

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Viet Nam, the whole Arab is behind you

(From our Beyrouth correspondent)

THROUGH the medium of paid press and news agencies, the American imperialists have been trying to mislead world public opinion about the real situation in Viet Nam. However, their all-round heavy setbacks and monstrous crimes against the Vietnamese people have opened our eyes to their atrocious aggression against South Viet Nam and our Southvietnamese brothers, victorious struggle for national liberation.

The Arab peoples are well aware that the United States supports the Saigon government and clings to South Viet Nam to further its own interests.

They also know that, for the defence of their fundamental national rights, the delegations of the DRVN and the Provisional Revolutionary Government of the South Viet Nam Republic persistently and firmly refute the fallacious allegations of the American representatives at the Paris Conference on Viet Nam and continuously unmask the aggressive schemes and base manœuvres of the Washington leaders and their Saigon lackeys.

The Arab peoples are convinced that the simultaneous armed struggle and peace talks will certainly yield positive results for the Southvietnamese people.

Wide backing from the press.

The Lebanese press is full of praise for the Vietnamese people's successes over US imperialism, ringleader of imperialism and neo-colonialism.

Almost all dailies, including AL NIDA, AL MOUHARRER, AL ANOUAR, AL CAAB, AL CHARK, SAOUT EL OUROUBA, have been front-paging news of their exploits and whenever mention is made of Viet Nam, it is in connection with its feats of arms.

Even reactionary papers print reports and dispatches on NFL actions in South Viet Nam and hold the view that the United States after such humiliating reverses must withdraw all its troops from South Viet Nam if it does not want to be the laughing stock of the "Free World".

As for the Lebanese people and their progressive political parties they are entirely on the side of the Vietnamese people and look forward to the inevitable defeat of the American aggressors in Viet Nam. Said Kamale Joumblatt, leader of a progressive party, "The Vietnamese people will surely win, because their confidence in the final victory and their traditional heroism are ceaselessly enhanced in the course of the fighting". And he added, "We must follow the example of our Vietnamese brothers and fight hard and outwit our Zionist adversaries aided and abetted by our common foe-US imperialism".

Unqualified support to the PRG of the South Viet Nam Republic.

At the news of the founding of the PRG of South Viet Nam, special committees have been set up in the Arab countries to urge their governments to recognize the PRG and expel the representations of the Saigon puppet administration.

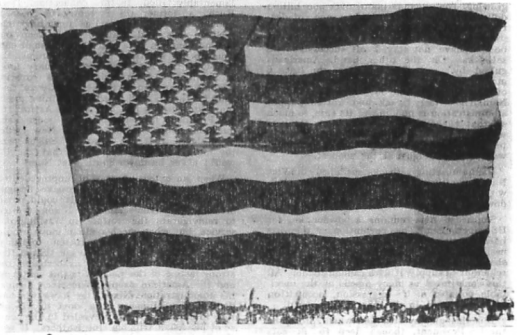
In spite of Zionist occupation, the Arab peoples keep a keen eye on the events in Viet Nam, for the Vietnamese question is tightly linked to theirs. Indeed, each US failure in Viet Nam naturally depresses the moral of the Israeli troops, and each success of the Vietnamese people understandably inspires a stunning strike from Arabs at the imperialists and their lackeys, the Zionists.

The Arabs and their anti-Zionist struggle.

It seems to us relevant, when dealing with the world peoples' anti-imperialist drive, to say a few words about military actions in our land. At present, the Arab peoples are putting up a fierce resistance against Israeli powerfully backed by the Anglo-American imperialists. After the June 1967 coup which enabled Israeli, to occupy — parts of the UAR, Jorden and Syria, the Arabs there have been exerting grant efforts to free themselves fromthe Israeli yoke. Armed opposition to Zionist aggression has been mounting in the Middle East. There the Fedayne (Arab commandos) have been stepping up their sabotage activities, which weaken the moral of the occupants, bring about their discredit, and rejoice the Arabs under their control.

Like the Vietnamese who have been gallantly facing the strongest imperialists of the 20th century and with highly efficient jungle warfare, the Fedayne are determined to fight and defeat the enemies inside and outside their country.

As the talks between the Big Four on the Middle-East like the Paris Conference on Viet Nam have not raised the slimmest hope, because the Americans persist in defending the selfish interests of the Israeli puppets, the Arabs remain on the look-out, their hands on the trigger.



"Skulls and Spangles", or US flag as viewed by Italian demonstrators against Nixon visit to their country